

connecticut

beer wholesalers association

The Connecticut Beer Wholesalers Association (CBWA) represents eight family-owned businesses with a mission of responsibility.

Connecticut Beer Wholesalers are responsible for the safe and efficient delivery of a controlled substance to authorize permittees, as well as providing a quality work environment for the men and women that live and work in Connecticut.

The proponent of **Senate Bill 14 An Act Ensuring The Regional Competitiveness of Connecticut's Liquor Prices** argues that eliminating minimum bottle; will allow Connecticut to compete with neighboring states on price. We disagree, eliminating the minimum bottle will have a negative impact on Connecticut companies, jobs, and just one change to our current system is like a domino effect – it will put Connecticut local package stores and small distributors at risk.

The administration believes “there continues to be unfair pricing disparity, and Connecticut consumers are needlessly paying more.” We believe that if there is a difference in price, it is Connecticut’s current tax structure that contributes to business being in an uncompetitive disadvantage to our neighboring states.

In 2011 the General Assembly increased from \$20 to \$24 cents the excise tax on alcohol, in addition to increasing the Sales tax from 6% to 6.35%, this action created an uncompetitive business climate in Connecticut compared to neighboring states.

CBWA respectfully requests the General Law Committee, to oppose **Senate Bill 14 An Act Ensuring The Regional Competitiveness of Connecticut's Liquor Prices**. We also request that the Legislature review Connecticut’s current tax structure before making any changes that would impact the good jobs that this industry provides and affect consumer choice of the vast products currently available at small retailer establishment.